3.5.4 Buffer Areas

There are no buffer regulations within the project limits.

3.5.5 Federally-Protected Species

Species with the federal classification of Endangered (E) or Threatened (T), or Officially Proposed (P) for such listing, are protected under the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq*.)

As of September 22, 2010, the following federally-protected species are listed for Rutherford County.

Table 3-6
Federally-Protected Species Listed for Rutherford County

Common Name	Scientific Name	Federal Status*	Habitat
Indiana bat	*Myotis sodalis*	E	Yes (roosting)
Dwarf-flowered heartleaf	*Hexastylis naniflora*	T	Yes
Small whorled pogonia	*Isotria medeoloides*	T	Yes
White irisette	*Sisyrinchium dichotomum*	E	No
Rock gnome lichen	*Gymnoderma lineare*	E	No

*E (Endangered) – A taxon "in danger of extinction throughout all or a significant portion of its range."
T (Threatened) – A taxon "likely to become endangered within the foreseeable future throughout all or a significant portion of its range."

Indiana Bat

The Indiana bat closely resembles several other bat species including the little brown bat, gray bat, small-footed bat and northern long-eared bat. The Indiana bat is a migratory species of the eastern central portion of the United States. Small populations are known to occur in North Carolina.

During the winter months, Indiana bat occupy suitable hibernacula (caves and mines) that are primarily located in karst areas of the east central United States. Hibernacula have been designated as critical habitat for this species.

The presence of Indiana bat in a particular area within its geographic range appears to be at least partially related to availability of natural roost structures, primarily dead trees with loose, exfoliating bark.

Floodplain and riparian forests are considered primary, or optimal, roosting habitat. Upland forests, old fields and pastures with scattered trees are considered secondary habitat.

No hibernacula for Indiana bat are present within the project study area; however, appropriate roosting habitat is present. The closest hibernaculum for a small colony of